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GUARDANT HEALTH, INC.  
6  
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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
9 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
10

11 GUARDANT HEALTH, INC.,  
a Delaware corporation,

12 Plaintiff,

13 vs.  
14

15 NATERA, INC.,  
a Delaware corporation,

16 Defendant.  
17

Case No. 21-cv-04062-EMC

**DECLARATION OF JUSTIN ODEGAARD  
M.D., PHD, IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S  
MOTION FOR TEMPORARY  
RESTRAINING ORDER**

Date: June 3, 2021  
Time: 1:45 p.m. (Pacific Time)  
Courtroom: Zoom Webinar  
Complaint Filed: May 27, 2021

18 I, Justin Odegaard, M.D., Ph.D., declare as follows:

19 1. I am the Vice President for Clinical Development at Guardant Health, Inc.  
20 ("Guardant"). I make this declaration in support of Guardant's Motion for Temporary  
21 Restraining Order. As Guardant's Vice President for Clinical Development at Guardant Health,  
22 Inc., I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth in this Declaration, and if called to testify as  
23 a witness, could and would competently testify to them under oath.

24 2. Guardant has a mission: To conquer cancer with data. Through painstaking  
25 research, Guardant developed its Guardant360 assay which pioneered liquid biopsy. The  
26 Guardant360 platform identified and coded strands of dying tumor DNA circulating in a  
27 patient's blood to determine the genomic alterations or mutations that drive the cancer.

28 3. Liquid biopsies are largely used today as a tool for therapy selection for patients

1 with advanced cancers. However, Guardant continues to work to advance the technology  
2 underlying Guardant360 to a point where it can become a tool for early detection of cancers or  
3 their recurrence, and a replacement for tissue biopsies that have been historically used to profile  
4 cancer tumors.

5 4. Historically, the field of cancer oncology has been data-starved, i.e., there has not  
6 been much data available about the genomic alterations that drive cancer, nor those that develop  
7 during cancer evolution. Because it is non-invasive, Guardant360 makes it much easier to  
8 capture data about genomic alterations that emerge in response to treatment and over time, and to  
9 share that data with others in the scientific and medical community.

10 5. Using data it has collected from the more than 200,000 patients whose cancers  
11 have been sequenced using Guardant360, Guardant is building a massive database of genomic  
12 information encompassing a broad variety of cancers, and hopes to increase its dataset to include  
13 data from more than 1 million patients over the next five years. This database will help  
14 researchers better define various diverse cancers at a molecular level with higher and higher  
15 resolution. The more detail this database contains, the more insight it provides into cancer  
16 pathogenesis. Guardant believes this resource accelerates new drug development, influences and  
17 informs oncologists' decision making, and ultimately improves cancer treatment and  
18 management by enabling highly individualized treatments based on comprehensive molecular  
19 information. This database also informs research into early detection, which holds tremendous  
20 promise for positively impacting survival in most cancers, for which reason the World Economic  
21 Forum (Davos) declared liquid biopsy their #1 breakthrough technology for 2017.

22 6. I joined Guardant as its Medical Director and Laboratory Director in February  
23 2016, and I have served as Guardant's Vice President for Clinical Development since July 2018.  
24 Prior to joining Guardant, I was Laboratory Director at OneOme, a company co-founded by the  
25 Mayo Clinic and a pioneer in the field of pharmacogenomics, helping improve patient outcomes  
26 and reducing healthcare expenses by optimizing personal care medicine. Prior to that I was the  
27 Director of Molecular Pathology at Lifecode, Inc., a company focused on pan-cancer genomic  
28 analyses for cancer care. In all of my positions, including currently at Guardant, my research has

1 focused on the development and clinical application of molecular diagnostics.

2 7. I am a board-certified molecular and surgical pathologist, and I hold a Ph.D. in  
3 Immunology and an M.D. from Stanford University School of Medicine, where I also served as  
4 an adjunct clinical professor of pathology.

5 8. As Guardant's Vice President for Clinical Development, I oversee advanced  
6 cancer clinical strategy; clinical trial operations, including design, execution, and submission of  
7 strategic clinical studies; and clinical laboratory testing including clinical aspects of assay  
8 development and validation, regulatory submission and medical policy.

9 9. My most recent Curriculum Vitae is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**.

10 10. Guardant is a pioneer in non-invasive cancer diagnostics and was the first  
11 company to commercialize a comprehensive genomic liquid biopsy blood test that is used to  
12 profile and track tumor genomics and identify treatment options. The Guardant oncology  
13 platform leverages its capabilities, including its proprietary blood tests, exclusive fragment  
14 coding, vast data sets, and advanced analytics, to drive commercial adoption, improve patient  
15 clinical outcomes, and lower healthcare costs across all stages of the cancer care continuum.  
16 Guardant Health has commercially launched the liquid biopsy-based Guardant360®,  
17 Guardant360® CDx, and GuardantOMNI® tests for advanced stage cancer patients, and recently  
18 launched its Guardant Reveal™ test for early-stage colorectal (CRC) patients.

19 11. CRC is the third most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second leading cause  
20 of cancer death in the United States. While a majority of patients are diagnosed with early-stage  
21 disease, nearly a third of patients whose CRC spreads into adjacent tissues and lymph nodes will  
22 die from their disease within five years.

23 12. Surgery alone is often curative for early-stage CRC, and in later-stage cases,  
24 adjuvant chemotherapy after surgery can reduce the risk of recurrence. However it is unclear  
25 which patients need adjuvant chemotherapy, and many who receive it do so unnecessarily. Until  
26 recently, clinicians have had very limited means of identifying patients that require adjuvant  
27 chemotherapy. Thus, the development of effective clinical tests to identify CRC patients with  
28 Minimal Residual Disease (MRD)—i.e., a small number of CRC cells remaining in the body that

1 can later multiply and cause recurrence of the disease—after surgery has long been recognized as  
2 a need, to help doctors both identify patients who may benefit from additional therapy and avoid  
3 administering unnecessary and toxic treatment to patients who will not benefit from it.

4 13. Human blood contains fragments of DNA, called cell-free DNA (cfDNA) that are  
5 shed into the bloodstream by dying cells in tissues. Such fragments of dying cancer cells are  
6 known as circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA). This phenomenon led to the development of so-  
7 called “liquid biopsies” a game-changing technology capable of detecting the presence of cancer  
8 in patients by detecting ctDNA in their blood without need of tumor tissue itself. This eventually  
9 led to liquid biopsies specifically designed to assess MRD following treatment of CRC. Liquid  
10 biopsies using simple blood draws offer major advantages for identifying MRD, because they are  
11 quick, convenient, and minimally invasive, and can be easily repeated to monitor for the  
12 presence of ctDNA over time.

13 14. Detecting and characterizing the very low concentrations of ctDNA present in the  
14 blood of CRC patients with MRD, and using that information to stratify patients as high- or low-  
15 risk for recurrence, requires an assay that is both highly sensitive and specific. Recognizing this  
16 need, Guardant expended substantial resources and time to develop Reveal, a clinical blood-  
17 based assay to evaluate ctDNA in blood using advanced DNA sequencing methods.

18 15. Reveal is the first commercially available plasma-only ctDNA assay, capable of  
19 detecting MRD in post-operative CRC patients without the need for prior sampling and  
20 sequencing of tumor tissue or the time needed to create a new, customized test for each new  
21 patient. Reveal simultaneously interrogates genomic and epigenomic alterations. It accurately  
22 identifies genomic alterations down to allele frequencies of 0.01%, and effectively filters out  
23 biological noise sources such as mutations caused by clonal hematopoiesis that can lead to false  
24 positive results when testing for MRD. The incorporation of biologically relevant epigenomic  
25 signatures is a key feature of Reveal that increases its test sensitivity in post-curative intent and  
26 surveillance indications.

27 16. Peer-reviewed data from a study conducted by Dr. Aparna R. Parikh and her  
28 colleagues at Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center shows that longitudinal Reveal

1 testing offers 91% sensitivity for recurrence (i.e., Reveal identified 91% of patients who went on  
2 to recur based on ctDNA detection) and 100% positive predictive value<sup>1</sup> for recurrence (i.e., all  
3 patients Reveal identified as having a “positive” ctDNA test result later recurred). This data has  
4 been presented at the 2019 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) meeting and the  
5 2019 and 2020 European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) conference and was recently  
6 published in the April 29, 2021 on-line issue of the journal *Clinical Cancer Research*.

7 17. This performance makes Reveal a useful tool in the management of early stage  
8 CRC patients, however Reveal offers meaningful advantages over existing assays for detecting  
9 MRD in CRC patients as well. Currently, the only other commercialized assay for detecting  
10 MRD in CRC patients of which I am aware is Natera, Inc.’s Signatera™. Signatera is a tumor-  
11 dependent assay (Natera uses the term “tumor-informed”) that sequences tumor tissue to identify  
12 a panel of tumor mutations specific to that patient, which then can be monitored throughout the  
13 patient’s disease course.

14 18. Tumor-dependent assays like Signatera have drawbacks. Specifically, a  
15 meaningful number of CRC patients—particularly those treated with chemotherapy prior to  
16 surgery—may not have sufficient samples of tumor tissue to allow initial genomic profiling of  
17 the tumor. For these patients, a plasma-only ctDNA assay like Reveal provides the only option  
18 for MRD detection using ctDNA. Even if sufficient tissue is available, the need to profile the  
19 tissue and develop an individualized array of assays can create significant delays in initial MRD  
20 testing turnaround time. Reveal obviates the dependency on tissue and reduces the time to attain  
21 results needed to decide whether high-risk patients require adjuvant chemotherapy from  
22 approximately three weeks to just 7 days. For patients with a potentially lethal disease like CRC,  
23 this timely therapy decision-making is critical for both outcomes and for peace of mind.

24 19. But the importance of plasma-only, tissue-independent analyses goes beyond the  
25 acceleration of time to result performance. For some groups of patients it is a fundamental matter  
26

27 <sup>1</sup> Positive predictive value (PPV) refers to the assay’s ability to correctly predict which patients  
28 will subsequently develop a recurrence of CRC (i.e., “positive” test result means CRC will recur).

1 of access. As some patients may not have adequate tumor tissue available for sequencing. This  
2 can occur in early stage cancers when patients have received neoadjuvant chemotherapy, which  
3 can kill the tumor in tissue samples, and when tissue samples are either unavailable due to  
4 logistical reasons (e.g. patient referred from another facility) or inadequate in either quantity or  
5 quality for follow-on MRD testing. Without Reveal, these patients would be deprived of early  
6 recurrence detection and would be consigned to the traditional clinical risk stratification, which  
7 may result in over- or under-treatment.

8 20. To be meaningful, any comparison between diagnostic tests, including ctDNA  
9 assays for detecting MRD in CRC patients must be supported by properly designed, head-to-  
10 head studies that directly compare the two assays using the same test procedures and protocols in  
11 the same patient population. Cross-test comparisons, especially where the purpose and  
12 methodology of the underlying studies differ significantly, and/or where the studies are  
13 conducted in different patient populations, are fraught with, and often result in, misleading  
14 apples-to-oranges comparisons that cannot legitimately be used to claim that one test is superior  
15 to the other.

16 21. As of this declaration, I am unaware of any such independent, head-to-head  
17 studies, that could be used to compare the performance of commercially available products—  
18 Reveal to Signatera—using the same test protocol and procedures in the same patient population.

19 22. Nonetheless, I am aware of the litany of Natera promotional materials that  
20 discusses such comparisons and touts the superiority of Signatera compared with Reveal and the  
21 alleged superiority of “tumor informed” assays over “tumor naïve” assays in general in detecting  
22 MRD. Some of these advertisements include their “Evidence Review,” their “White Paper,” and  
23 their “Investor Presentation,” which purports to compare “Signatera vs. Reveal performance.”  
24 Similar to its “Evidence Review” and “White Paper,” Natera’s May 2021 “performance  
25 comparison” claims to demonstrate quantitatively that Signatera is superior to Reveal across a  
26 wide-ranging set of metrics, including “pre-surgical sensitivity,” “failure rate,” “diagnostic lead  
27 time,” “post-surgical” and “serial longitudinal” negative predictive value (NPV), and “Hazard  
28 Ratio,” among other categories, some of which are not “performance” metrics at all.

23. Critically Natera's "performance comparisons" are not based on a head-to-head study directly comparing Signatera and Reveal. No such study has been submitted, reviewed nor published to my knowledge. Instead Natera cites select data from a study conducted by Reinert *et al.* ("the Reinert Study") concerning Signatera, and inappropriately extrapolates other data from a study of an entirely different design and patient population conducted by Parikh *et al.* ("the Parikh Study") concerning Reveal. Published versions of both studies are attached as Exhibits I and J to the Declaration of Thereasa Rich, M.S.

24. Natera's advertising misleads oncologists and other physicians, cancer researchers, health care institutions, biopharmaceutical companies, and genetic laboratories to believe that Reveal is not validated, unproven, insensitive, and indeed "detrimental to patients," and that Signatera provides superior "performance."

25. In addition to clinical applications, I have (and currently do) work closely with our Biopharma business development team. That group works with companies developing cancer therapeutics, including small molecule drugs, immunological response biologics, and other advanced biochemical agents of treatment or remedy. Reveal, like the other Guardant assays, serve an important role in the development and validation of new therapeutics.

26. Biopharma companies run clinical trials to determine the safety and efficacy of proposed therapeutics. Populating those trials with patients who meet the test criteria is often a long and arduous process. For example, if a study wished to test a therapy on a CRC patient who could benefit from adjuvant therapy, it would aim to populate the study with patients who would otherwise experience post-surgical recurrence.

27. Reveal is intended to identify CRC patients who would have future disease recurrence and thereby allowing those patients access to late-stage drugs or biologics that could be effective in preventing that recurrence. In other words, Reveal becomes the gateway to a clinical trial for the patients most likely to validate the efficacy of the test.

28. I am aware that at least one biopharma company has been shown the Natera-authored comparison chart that contains many of the false and misleading assertions about Reveal. Guardant was specifically called to stand and defend the assertions put forth by Natera.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I, Justin Odegaard, certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on this 2nd day of June, 2021.

Justin Odegard



# **EXHIBIT 1**

## JUSTIN ODEGAARD, MD, PHD

425 SHELFORD AVENUE, SAN CARLOS, CA 94070

PHONE 650.814.2311, E-MAIL [odegaard@gmail.com](mailto:odegaard@gmail.com)

### SUMMARY

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Physician-scientist with executive experience in molecular diagnostics, including laboratory director and vice president roles leading clinical development, validation, operation, and clinical interpretation of molecular oncology diagnostics (IVD and CDx). Built companion diagnostics and clinical trial operations groups from ground up through two FDA Breakthrough Device Designations, multiple successful Investigational Device Exemptions, approval of the first liquid biopsy panel, approval of multiple PMA and sPMA CDx devices in US, Japan, and EU, including co-developed and follow-on CDx. VP-level experience in clinical strategy, including clinical product development, diagnostic study design and execution, and data development. VP-level experience contributing to reimbursement strategy, including clinical lead for successful Medicare and private payer coverage efforts.

### EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

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Guardant Health (Redwood City, CA)

Vice President Clinical Development, August 2018 – Present

Senior Medical Director, Laboratory Co-Director, February 2016 – August 2018

Stanford University, Department of Pathology (Stanford, CA)

Instructor of Pathology (Attending Physician, Molecular Genetic Pathology), July 2013 – Jan. 2017

Adjunct Assistant Clinical Professor, Jan 2017 – May 2020

OneOme (Minneapolis, MN)

Laboratory Director, February 2016 – February 2018

LifeCode/Silicon Valley Biosystems (Foster City, CA)

Laboratory Director designee, Director of Molecular Pathology, June 2014 – January 2016

University of California San Francisco, Cardiovascular Research Institute (San Francisco, CA)

Assistant Professional Researcher, July 2013 – May 2016

Driver Group, LLC (San Francisco, CA)

Diagnostics development consultant, June 2015 – November 2015

### CLINICAL TRAINING

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Stanford University Hospital, Department of Pathology (Stanford, CA)

Molecular and genetic pathology fellow, July 2012 - June 2013

Surgical pathology fellow and chief resident, July 2011 - June 2012

Anatomic pathology resident, July 2009 - June 2011

### PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

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New York State, Clinical Laboratory Evaluation Program Laboratory Director Certificate of Qualification in Molecular and Cellular Tumor Markers and Genetic Testing

American Board of Pathology diplomate in molecular and genetic pathology and anatomic pathology

California State Medical Board medical license #A113725

### EDUCATION

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Stanford University Medical School (Stanford, CA): M.D., June 2009, Ph.D. (Immunology), June 2009

Duke University (Durham, NC): B.S., June 2002

### PATENTS

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Primary Inventor, GH0034US-PRV2/42534-784.102, "Methods for the non-invasive detection and monitoring of therapeutic nucleic acid constructs."

Inventor, GH0041WO/42534-794.601, "Methods and systems for adjusting tumor mutational burden by tumor fraction and coverage."

## PUBLICATIONS (IN REVERSE CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)

## ORIGINAL RESEARCH

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4. Evaristus C. Mbanefo, PhD; Chinwike Terry Agbo, MD; Yuanlong Zhao, MD; Olivia K. Lamanna, BS; Kimberly H. Thai, MD; Shannon Karinshak; Mohammad Khan; Chi-Ling Fu; Justin Odegaard; Irina Saltikova; Michael Smout; Luke Pennington; Mark Nicolls; Theodore Jardetzky; Alex Loukas; Paul Brindley; Franco Falcone; Michael Hsieh. “IPSE, an Abundant Egg-Secreted Protein of the Carcinogenic Helminth *Schistosoma haematobium*, Promotes Proliferation of Bladder Cancer Cells and Angiogenesis.” *Infectious Agents and Cancer*. In press.
5. Yoshiaki Nakamura, Hiroya Taniguchi, Masafumi Ikeda, Hideaki Bando, Ken Kato, Chigusa Morizane, Taito Esaki, Yoshito Komatsu, Yasuyuki Kawamoto, Naoki Takahashi, Makoto Ueno, Yoshinori Kagawa, Tomohiro Nishina, Takeshi Kato, Yoshiyuki Yamamoto, Junji Furuse, Tadamichi Denda, Hisato Kawakami, Eiji Oki, Takako Nakajima, Naohiro Nishida, Kensei Yamaguchi, Hisateru Yasui, Masahiro Goto, Nobuhisa Matsushashi, Koushiro Ohtsubo, Kentaro Yamazaki, Akihito Tsuji, Wataru Okamoto, Katsuya Tsuchihara, Takeharu Yamanaka, Izumi Miki, Yasutoshi Sakamoto, Hiroko Ichiki, Masayuki Hata, Riu Yamashita, Atsushi Ohtsu, Justin I. Odegaard, Takayuki Yoshino. “Clinical Utility of Circulating Tumor DNA Sequencing in Advanced Gastrointestinal Cancer: SCRUM-Japan GI-SCREEN and GOZILA Studies.” *Nature Medicine*. 2020 Dec; 26(12):1859-1864. Epub Oct 5 2020.
6. Preeti Narayan, Soma Ghosh, Reena Philip, J. Carl Barrett, Robert T. McCormack, Justin I. Odegaard, Geoffrey R. Oxnard, Laurel J. Pracht, P. Mickey Williams, Gary J. Kelloff, Julia A. Beaver. “State of the Science and Future Directions for Liquid Biopsies in Drug Development.” *The Oncologist*. 08 June 2020.
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8. Stephen R. Fairclough, PhD; Lesli A. Kiedrowski, MS, MPH; Jessica J. Lin; Ori Zelichov; Gabi Tarcic; Thomas E. Stinchcombe; Justin I. Odegaard; Richard B. Lanman; Alice T. Shaw; Rebecca J. Nagy. “Identification of osimertinib-resistant EGFR L792 mutations by cfDNA sequencing: oncogenic activity assessment and prevalence in large cfDNA cohort.” *Experimental Hematology & Oncology*. October 2019.
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- Hoon Park, Joon Oh Park, Young Suk Park, Ho Yeong Lim, AmirAli Talasaz, Simon J Hollingsworth, Kyoung-Mee Kim, and Won Ki Kang. "Tumor genomic profiling guides metastatic gastric cancer patients to targeted treatment: The VIKTORY Umbrella Trial." *Cancer Discovery*. E-pub July 17, 2019.
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  13. Giulia Siravegna, Andrea Sartore-Bianchi, Rebecca J. Nagy, Kanwal Raghav, Justin I. Odegaard, Richard B. Lanman, Livio Trusolino, Silvia Marsoni, Salvatore Siena, Alberto Bardelli. "Plasma HER2 (ERBB2) copy number predicts response to HER2-targeted therapy in metastatic colorectal cancer." *Clinical Cancer Research*, 2019.
  14. Evaristus Mbanefo, Loc Le, Rebecca Zee, Nirad Banskota, Kenji Ishida, Luke Pennington, Justin Odegaard, Theodore Jardetzky, Abdulaziz Alouffi, Franco Falcone, and Michael Hsieh. "IPSE, a urogenital parasite-derived immunomodulatory protein, ameliorates ifosfamide-induced hemorrhagic cystitis through downregulation of pro-inflammatory pathways" *Nature Scientific Reports*, 2019, Feb 7;9(1):1586.
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